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(56) Documents Cited

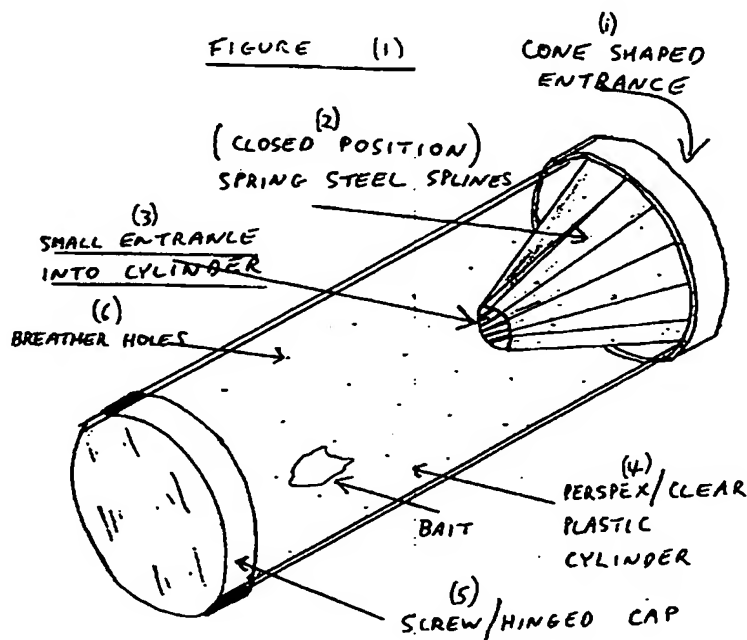
WO 96/08964 A1 US 4538375 A US 4221070 A
US 3271894 A

(58) Field of Search

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INT CL⁶ A01K 69/08 , A01M 23/00 23/02 23/08 23/14
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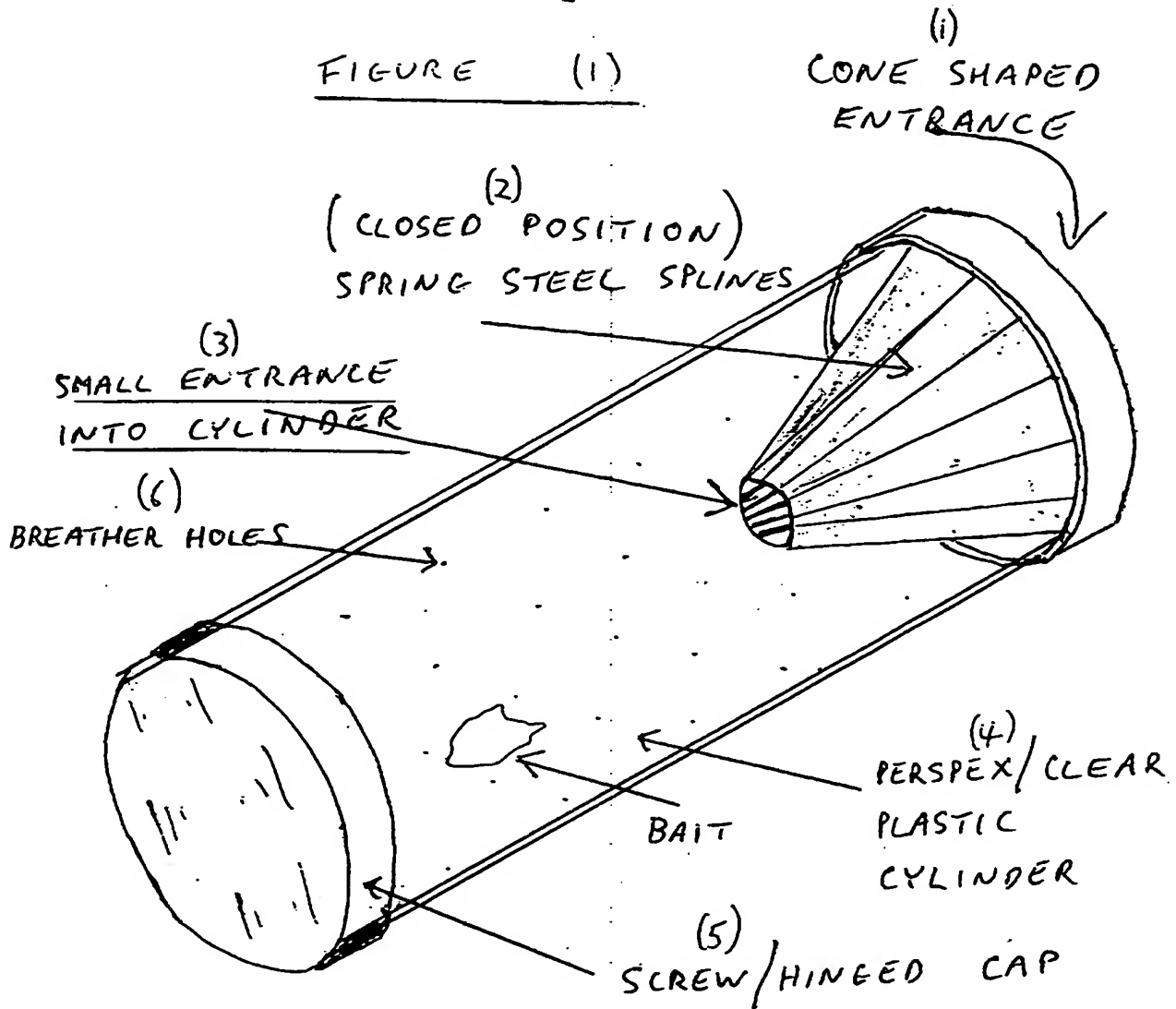
(54) Abstract Title
Rodent trap

(57) An animal trap is formed with an entrance in the shape of a cone. The cone is formed from spring steel splines which may expand at passage of an animal into the trap body. The cone forms a one way entrance.



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FIGURE (1)



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FIGURE 2.

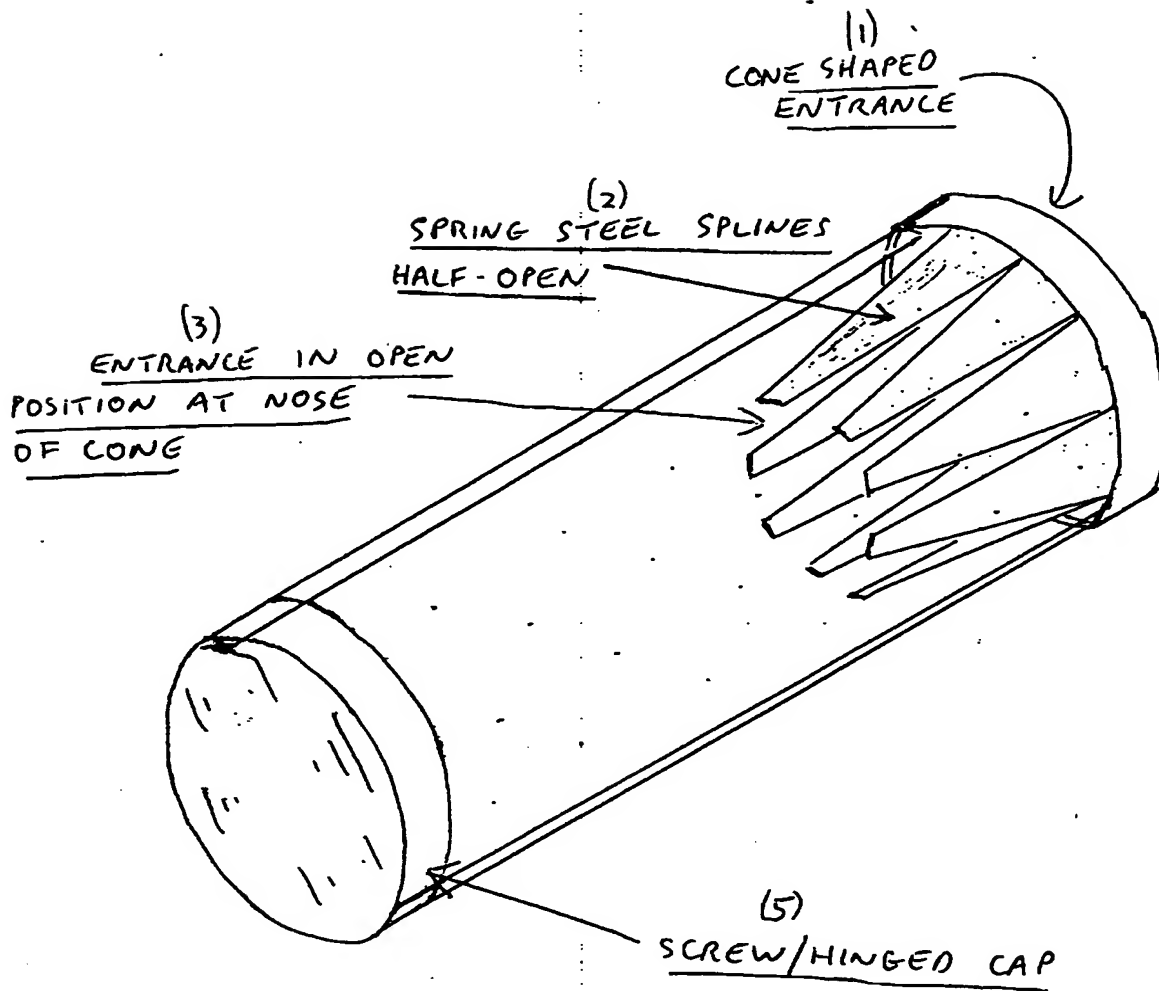
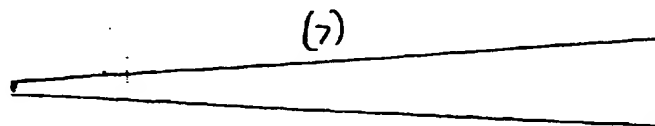


FIGURE 3



PROFILE OF EACH SPLINE

ANGEL RODENT TRAP

This invention relates to a humane rodent trap.

Rodent traps have been used for centuries but almost in all cases have sought to do so by killing the animal. Often traps have been sprung loaded or of a trap door type of arrangement. Furthermore traps normally only trap one animal at a time and need to be re-set after activation.

This present invention consists of a cylindrical body made of clear UPVC material or perspex with a screw top lid at one end and at the other end of the cylinder is an open splined cone which is fitted into a section of the container with the apex of cone inside the container with the widest end of the cone at the entrance point of the cylinder.

Bait is placed inside the cylinder and when the rodent moves into the cylinder through the 'splined cone', the splines of the cone are pushed outwards allowing the animal to enter inside the cylinder. Once the animal has passed right through the cone entrance, the splines return to their original position thereby trapping the animal inside unharmed.

The animal can be released by opening the screw-top or hinged lid at the other end of the cylinder.

The cylindrical container could be peppered with small holes to allow aeration of the trap. The splines could be transparent or opaque and made of a very strong and thin material such as carbon fibre or sprung steel. Each spline would be elongated and triangular in shape.

The size of the container and entrance cone could be increased accordingly depending on the size of animal it was intended to trap.

The sharp end of the cone would be cut off, to allow the animal to see into the container and also allow it to smell the bait inside.

Figure (1) shows the rodent trap in it's closed position.

Figure (2) shows the rodent trap in it's semi-open position.

Figure (3) shows the triangular shape of each one of the splines within the cone.

Referring to the drawing the angel rodent trap comprises of a removable screw-cap at the exit end of the container (5), a transparent cylindrical container (4) and the splined-cone entrance (1).

CLAIMS

1. The splined cone object will open when a small amount of force is exerted upon it from the inside and close back to it's original position when the force ceases.
2. The splined cone object will resist force on it from the outside and will not open. It is designed as a one-way entrance only.

3.

Amendments to the claims have been filed as follows:-

1. A rodent trap comprising a tubular trap body having a cone shaped entrance at one of it's ends, the cone narrowing toward an inner part of the body, the body being formed from a transparent material and the entrance being formed from expandable resilient elements which open at passage of an animal.
2. A rodent trap as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the resilient elements are in the form of triangular splines which form a one way passage for a rodent.



Application No: GB 9901638.8
Claims searched: 1&2

Examiner: Ross Cavill
Date of search: 10 May 1999

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

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Other: Online: WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	WO 96/08964 A1 (REYNDERS) see page 2 line 17-19	1&2
X	US 4538375 (KELLEY) see whole document	1&2
X	US 4221070 (SWINDELL) see col 4 line 68 - col 5 line 4	1&2
X	US 3271894 (MANNO) see col 2 line 16-23 & line 35-44	1&2

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.